

PUBLIC ROADS

GOOD HIGHWAYS SAVED PARIS

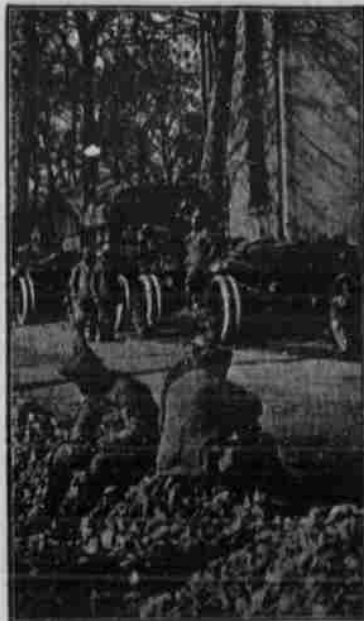
Example of French Capital Cited to Press Home Plan of Improved Roads in This Country.

The congestion of traffic which has so seriously handicapped war preparations and industrial and commercial activity during the last few months has emphasized to all the vital importance of good roads. The shortage of freight cars has caused the government to recommend the use of motor-trucks for handling freight on short hauls, in order to save freight-car equipment for long hauls. Freight cannot be successfully handled by motor-trucks without good roads.

There is also a growing tendency on the part of manufacturers and wholesalers to have their salesmen travel by automobile instead of by railroad trains, writes C. S. Rieman, president of a large motorcar concern, in Chicago Post. This also further helps to solve the traffic problem. But the extensive use of trucks for cross-country hauling and of passenger automobiles by salesmen and others, instead of traveling by train, will depend to a large extent upon road conditions.

It also occurs to me that since our transportation facilities have been so seriously overtaxed by extra traffic resulting from our war preparations to date, the enormous increase in war activities for which preparations are now being made will result in further serious delays, unless a large portion of the traffic can be handled by motor-trucks. In order to appreciate the importance of good roads from a military standpoint, we have only to recall the fact that in all probability Paris would have been captured by the German army in their first great drive had it not been that the excellent French roads permitted the quick concentrating of French troops by means of motor-trucks, passenger automobiles and taxicabs, which played so important a part in helping out the French railroad system.

The prosperity of any country and the advance of civilization are always measured by the transportation facilities.



Convoys of Rapid-Fire Cannon on Way to Front in France.

ties. As a manufacturer of motorcars, the good roads problem has been brought very forcibly to my attention, and I have given the subject much thought and study. It is my firm conviction that the continued prosperity of this country and the quick and efficient handling of war preparations cannot be better promoted than by keeping our streets and highways in first-class condition. I believe whatever expenditures are necessary to this end should be made.

NOW CALL ROADS MILITARY

Bill Before Senate Says Government Should Assist in Keeping Highways in Repair.

A bill before the senate says all state roads used by the government should be treated as military highways and the government should assist in keeping them in repair. The bill was introduced by Senator J. T. Smith, who has investigated the deterioration of the Maryland highway system. The bill states the government is not to contribute more than two-thirds of the money for repairs nor more than \$1,000 per mile. It has gone to the senate committee on appropriations.

WASHINGTON SIDELIGHTS

Would Do Many and Varied Things With a Million

WASHINGTON.—Nothing is more refreshing than a choice bit of idiosyncrasy after a day's work that requires a double portion of brains. Which accounts for the hereby quoted proposition: "If somebody gave you a million dollars this afternoon would you show up in the morning?"



The answers were what dear Mr. Venus would call "various."

One big youngster, who was keeping up with the Joneses, admitted that a sudden million might possibly induce him to phone to the chief for a day off. Another, hobnobbing with a fellow-suburbanite over the feminine inconsistencies of hens, stepped out of his chicken run long enough to make it distinctly understood that "I would take more than any little old measly million to keep him from helping to get the best paper ever out on time—a statement endorsed by applause."

For that matter, even the one insignificant side comb in the crowd whose imagination wasn't elastic enough to picture a raise in salary and who didn't know Exception's everyday name could have predicted, without cards or crystal ball, that the big half of any fortune that should ever come his way would go toward the honest helping of that universal relative, our brother man—and while she was considering Exception had already gone on record.

If he had a million dollars he would buy a bean orchard and board it for soup like his landlady used to make.

No Long Journey Downtown for This Youngster

THERE is a special delivery boy in this town who is going to turn out to be either a bright, successful man or a clever crook. It is hard to tell which, but you may form your own opinion after I tell you what he did the other day. Educators have a theory that "badness" is often a species of pent-up energy, and that the same talent for mischief shown by many boys, if turned to good channels, is the very talent that will make the boy successful in after life.

Remember that in considering the following:

This young fellow delivered a special delivery letter, with the familiar blue stamp showing a boy riding on a bicycle on it, to a certain residence in the northwest section. It was an apartment house. The boy rang the bell in the downstairs hall, but, receiving no answer, mounted the steps to the apartment in question.

Still no answer. So the boy rang the bell in the next apartment, and when a woman answered the bell he asked if she would take the letter for the absentee.

"Why, you had better take that letter down to Mr. So-and-So's office," said the woman.

"Yes, mam," said the boy, and departed.

When he came to the row of mail boxes, he stopped, looked around, and acted. He did not hesitate in the least. His power of decision was very good. Power of decision is a fine thing, too.

He calmly tore the special delivery stamp off the letter, and dropped the missive into the proper mail box, making it appear as if the regular mailman had delivered it.



Real Estate Man Thinks Women Talk Too Much

TWO women were being shown an apartment by an agent. Sure, it is possible to get an apartment in Washington—if you know where. That's the trouble, knowing where they are. These women knew, evidently, because there they were, being shown around by the real estate man himself.

As the trio passed up the steps who should issue forth from an apartment but Mrs. Smith, friend of the two ladies.

"Oh, Mrs. Smith, so glad to see you," said one lady. "You can tell us about this apartment we are going to rent."

The real estate agent had stopped, waiting for the women. He was about three feet away. "I sure can tell you about that apartment," said Mrs. Smith, falling utterly to see the agent. And, what was worse, it wouldn't have made any difference if she had seen that gentleman, because it happened that she had never laid eyes on said agent in all her life. She always paid by check.

"My dears," breathed Mrs. Smith, "don't you let the agent fool you on that apartment. Ask him about the sink that stops up, and—"

Then came a whirlwind of advice, which the two prospective tenants took in eagerly—as did the agent.

That worthy began to blush. It must be confessed, and the two women began to blush a little themselves, but innocent Mrs. Smith kept right on.

"You know," she continued, "that apartment is exactly like mine. What is he going to charge you for it?"

"Sixty dollars," said one of the two ladies.

"I pay \$50 for mine," said the all-revealing Mrs. Smith.

Pet Polly Went to Gladden More Lonesome Person

A MAN in search of congenial companionship went to a bird store to buy a parrot that could talk. There were no conversationalists in stock, so he tacked off in another direction for a specially suggested Polly, but, disappointed, returned to first base. The owner of the store, always ready to please a customer, considered the case apart from its financial aspect:

"Come back later, colonel, and I'll see if I can't find a talker for you."

So the colonel went off and returned at the time set, to find a knowing green polly posed near the counter on a perch. And of course the man extended social greetings.

"Hello, Polly!"

It responded with the spontaneous, "Hello, colonel!" That settled the deal. And... a long time there lived in this town a lonesome man person and a knowing parrot who called out to each other at every coming and going:

"Hello, Polly!"

It wasn't much, of course, but it was something. And the colonel was old enough to have learned that every little counts. And he was entirely satisfied with the social gifts of his two-worded friend until just a little while ago he found a lonesome person than himself, who was blind and wanted a parrot that could talk. So, after a battle that would have made the Medes and Persians look silly, he turned the bird over to a new owner—and now in this town there is a lonesome old woman who calls out to her companion:

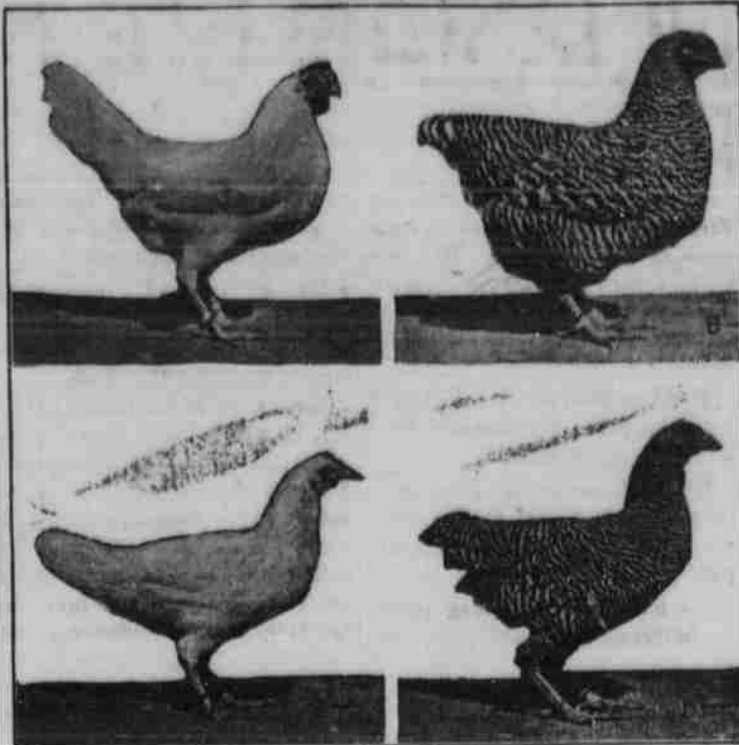
"Hello, Polly!"



A Bird in the Hand

(Special Information Service, United States Department of Agriculture.)

PREPARE NOW TO RAISE POULTRY



A, Early Hatched White Leghorn; B, Early Hatched Barred Plymouth Rock; C and D, Late-Hatched Fowls.

PURCHASE FOWLS IN FALL SEASON

Autumn Is Time for City Man to Begin Preparations for Operating Hen Yard.

GOOD PULLETS ARE FAVORED

Advice of Experienced Poultry Raiser Will Greatly Assist Amateur—One General-Purpose Breeds Is Preferable.

The best way for the city poultry keeper to procure hens is to purchase them in the fall. An effort should be made to obtain pullets rather than older hens, and the pullets selected should be well matured, so that they will begin to lay before cold weather.

Evidences of the maturity of pullets are the development and red color of the comb and a size and growth which are good for the breed or variety. Hens will lay little or no eggs during the fall and early winter while they are molting. Well-matured pullets, however, should lay fairly well during this period, so that an immediate return is realized from the investment.

Advice Helps Inexperienced.

When pullets are to be purchased, it is well if possible to go to some farmer or poultryman who may be known to the prospective purchaser. In some cases it may pay to make arrangements with the farmer to raise the desired number of pullets at an agreed price. Where the householder does not have an opportunity to go into the country for his pullets, he can often pick them out among the live poultry shipped into the city to be marketed.

The advice of someone who knows poultry should be sought to make sure that pullets or young hens are obtained and that the stock is healthy. Often local poultry associations are glad to help the prospective poultry keeper to get stock by putting him in communication with some of its members having stock for sale. Sometimes boards of trade or chambers of commerce are glad to help bring together the prospective purchaser and the poultry raiser.

Kind of Fowls to Keep.

Householders usually desire not only eggs for the table and for cooking, but also an occasional chicken to eat. For this reason one of the general-purpose breeds, such as the Plymouth Rock, Wyandotte, Rhode Island Red, or Orpington, is preferable to the smaller egg breeds, such as the Leghorns. Not only do the mature fowls of these breeds, because of their larger size, make better table fowls than the Leghorns, but the young chickens for the same reason make better friers and roasters, whereas chickens of the egg breeds are only suitable for the small-size broilers.

Don't Overstock Hen Yard.

The size of the flock which can be most efficiently kept will depend first

upon the space available and second upon the amount of table scraps or other waste which is available for feed. It is a mistake to try to overstock the available space. Better results will be obtained from a few hens in a small yard than from a larger number. The backyard poultry flock rarely will consist of over 20 or 25 hens and in many cases of no more than eight or ten, or occasionally of only three or four. For a flock of 20 to 25 hens a space of not less than 25 by 30 feet should be available for a yard. Where less space is available, the size of the flock should be reduced, allowing on the average 20 to 30 square feet per bird.

A few hens are sometimes kept successfully with a smaller yard allowance than this, but if the space is available a yard of the size indicated should be used.

Helping Village and Town. Duty does not stop with the raising of poultry products sufficient to feed the home folks on the farm. Many village people will have to look to the nearby farm for poultry or probably go without. Many people in town have not even a back yard and cannot maintain a laying flock. These folks look to the farm for fresh eggs and chickens for the table. Dozens of people in near-by villages and towns would gladly have a backyard flock if it could be procured near home. The farmer should rear extra pullets to help fill this call from the village and town.

Determining Chickens' Ages.

A common way of testing the age of dressed poultry, as described by home economics specialists of the United States department of agriculture, is to take between thumb and finger the end of the breastbone, farthest from the head, and attempt to bend it to one side. In a very young bird, such as a "broiler" chicken or a green goose, it will be easily bent, like the cartilage in the human ear; in a bird a year or so old it will be brittle, and in an old bird, tough and hard to bend or break. Tricky dealers have been known to break the end of the breastbone before showing the bird, thus rendering the test useless.

Poultry Paragraphs.

Don't keep a male bird after the hatching season. Hens lay just as well without a male. Don't overstock your land. Purchase well-matured pullets rather than hens.

Make the poultry house dry and free from drafts, but allow for ventilation.

Keep the house and yard clean.

Grow some green crop in the yard.

Spade up the yard frequently. Feed table scraps and kitchen waste.

Keep hens free from lice and the house free from mites.